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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
25 March-4 April 1991
Agenda item 4*

WATER RESOURCES

Preparation for the International Conference on Water and the Environment

Denmark and Sweden: draft resolution

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will be convened in 1992,

Noting with appreciation that the World Meteorological Organization, on behalf of the organizations of the United Nations system with programmes in fresh water that are represented on the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources, will convene an International Conference on Water and the Environment in January 1992 as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the kind offer of the Government of Ireland to host that Conference, hereinafter called the Dublin Conference,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990, and in this connection stressing the relevance for the Dublin Conference of the New Delhi Statement, adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990,

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* E/C.7/1991/1.

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Welcoming the comprehensive documentation presented to the Committee on Natural Resources on integrated water resource development,

1. Recommends that in preparing for the Dublin Conference, every effort should be made to prepare action programmes containing, as appropriate, targets, timetables and cost estimates so as to operationalize the outcome of the Conference to the maximum extent possible;

2. Stresses the need for an action-oriented outcome of the Dublin Conference, which should provide the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with important contributions with regard to guidelines and time-frames for the establishment of national action plans for integrated water resources development and management;

3. Draws the attention of Governments to the importance of basing national action plans inter alia on the following basic principles:

(a) The concept of water as a finite and fragile resource;

(b) The concept of water as an economic good;

(c) Effective management of water resources at the appropriate administrative levels;

4. Calls upon the governing bodies and secretariats of relevant organizations of the United Nations system to submit, within their respective mandates and in close collaboration with Governments and the secretariats of the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, substantive contributions to the Dublin Conference;

5. Invites all Governments to engage actively in the preparatory process leading up to the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to contribute to that process;

6. Calls upon the Inter-Agency Steering Committee established by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination Inter-Secretariat Group for Water Resources for the purpose of preparing for the Dublin Conference to take fully into account all views expressed by Governments throughout the preparatory process when preparing the documentation for the Dublin Conference.